

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A gaming machine capable of accepting bills, the gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet;

a door provided on a front face of the cabinet;

a control panel provided in an operating part of the door, the control panel having a notched part;

a bill insertion slot provided in the door; and

a bill guide plate provided on the door and extending forward from a lower end of the bill insertion slot for guiding a bill into the bill insertion slot, wherein the bill guide plate has a plurality of openings for dropping foreign matter separated from the bill;

wherein

the door has a mounting member;

the mounting member has

a first open end covered by the bill guide plate and located under the openings of the bill guide plate for receiving the foreign matter dropped from said openings, and

a second open end located below and communicated with the first open end, second open end being opened downwards for directing the foreign matter further downwardly;

the mounting member is located directly below the bill guide plate;

the bill guide plate is mounted as a separate member onto the mounting member;

a protrusion is formed on a rear wall of the bill guide plate and a cylindrical protrusion is formed on a front lower wall of the bill guide plate, the cylindrical protrusion comprising an internal thread; and

a groove is formed in a rear inner wall of the first open end of the mounting member, and the protrusion of the bill guide plate is insertable into the groove and the bill guide plate is tiltable towards the mounting member in order to assemble the bill guide plate onto the mounting member and the bill guide plate fixed thereto are inserted into the notched part of the control panel.

2. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of openings are a plurality of slot openings of a substantially rectilinear formation that are disposed parallel to each other.

3. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 2, wherein the bill guide plate further has a plurality of partition members which divide the slot openings into smaller slit openings.

4. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein a length of each of the smaller slit openings formed by the partition members is smaller than a diameter of a coin utilized with the gaming machine.

5. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein upper surfaces of the partition members are below a top surface of the bill guide plate.

6-7. (canceled)

8. **(currently amended)** A gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the

mounting member and the bill guide plate fixed thereto are inserted into the notched part of the control panel, capable of accepting bills, the gaming machine comprising:

~~a cabinet;~~

~~a door provided on a front face of the cabinet;~~

~~a bill insertion slot provided in the door; and~~

~~a bill guide plate provided on the door and extending forward from a lower end of the bill insertion slot for guiding a bill into the bill insertion slot, wherein the bill guide plate has a plurality of openings for dropping foreign matter separated from the bill;~~

~~wherein~~

~~the door has a mounting member;~~

~~the mounting member has~~

~~a first open end covered by the bill guide plate and located under the openings of the bill guide plate for receiving the foreign matter dropped from said openings; and~~

~~a second open end located below and communicated with the first open end, second open end being opened downwards for directing the foreign matter further downwardly;~~

~~the mounting member is located directly below the bill guide plate;~~

~~the bill guide plate is mounted as a separate member onto the mounting member;~~

~~a protrusion is formed on a rear wall of the bill guide plate and a cylindrical protrusion is formed on a front lower wall of the bill guide plate, the cylindrical protrusion comprising an internal thread; and~~

~~a groove is formed in a rear inner wall of the first open end of the mounting member, and the protrusion of the bill guide plate is insertable into the groove and the bill guide plate is tiltable towards the mounting member in order to assemble the bill guide plate onto the mounting member.~~

9. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein the bill

guide plate is fixed to the mounting member by a single fixing screw threadedly engaged with the internal thread of said cylindrical protrusion.

10. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the mounting member has a passage extending downward from the first open end to the second open end, being tapered as the passage extends downwardly.

11-20. (canceled)

21. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to ~~claim 20~~ claim 1, wherein the bill guide plate is fixed to the mounting member by a single fixing screw threadedly engaged with the internal thread of said cylindrical protrusion.

22. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of openings are a plurality of slot openings of a substantially rectilinear formation that are disposed parallel to each other.

23. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 22, wherein the bill guide plate further has a plurality of partition members which divide the slot openings into smaller slit openings.

24. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 23, wherein a length of each of the smaller slit openings formed by the partition members is smaller than a diameter of a coin utilized with the gaming machine.

25. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 23, wherein upper surfaces of the partition members are below a top surface of the bill guide plate.

26. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein the mounting member has a passage extending downward from the first open end to the second open end, being tapered as the passage extends downwardly.

27. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising a bill validator housed in the cabinet for receiving and validating bills inserted through the bill insertion slot;

wherein a top surface of the bill guide plate is open to the outside through a loading slot of the notched part.

28. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim 27, wherein an entirety of the top surface of the bill guide plate is accessible from the outside through said loading slot, ~~thereby facilitating cleaning of the bill guide plate without having to open the door.~~

29. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 28, wherein an entirety of the bill guide plate is insertable through said loading slot to allow the bill guide plate to be installed or removed through said loading slot.

30. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 8, further comprising a bill validator housed in the cabinet for receiving and validating bills inserted through the bill insertion slot;

wherein a top surface of the bill guide plate is open to the outside through an loading slot on the door.

31. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim 30, wherein an entirety of the top surface of the bill guide plate is accessible from the outside through said loading

slot, thereby facilitating cleaning of the bill guide plate without having to open the door.

32. (previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 31, wherein an entirety of the bill guide plate is insertable through said loading slot to allow the bill guide plate to be installed or removed through said loading slot.